

Message Text

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SUBJ: BALTIC SEA FISHERMEN DEMONSTRATE AGAINST BALTIC SEA COD
QUOTAS

SUMMARY: SINCE MAY 4, 1978, A BIG GROUP OF BALTIC SEA FISHERMEN WITH AROUND 500 CUTTERS HAS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE EC NEGOTIATED COD-QUOTAS FOR THE BALTIC SEA. THE FISHERMEN'S DEMONSTRATION IN TWO INSTANCES LED TO TOTAL BLOCKADE OF MOST OF THE IMPORTANT DANISH HARBORS. FISHERMEN'S MEETING WITH DANISH FISHERIES MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER MAY RESULT IN SOME COMPENSATION FOR LOST CATCHES, PROVIDED, THESE OFFICIALS SAY, THAT FISHERMEN AGREE IMMEDIATELY TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER BLOKADES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE EC NOGIATED QUOTA FOR DANSIH CATCHES OF COD IN THE BALTIC SEA, A BIG GROUP OF FISHERMEN WITH AROUND 500 FISHING VESSELS, ON MAY 4 AND MAY 10 ESTABLISHED 2 TOTAL BLOCKADES OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DANISH HARBORS. THE BLOCKADES LASTED FOR 5 AND 8 HOURS RESPECTIVELY AND PUT A TOTAL STOP TO THE TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DANISH HARBORS
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EXCLUDING THOSE ON THE WEST COAST OF JUTLAND. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS AIMED AT AN INCREASE IN THE XISTING COD-QUOTA FOR THE BALTIC, PREFERABLY AROUND 20,000 TONS, OR ALTERNATIVELY A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OF DKR 70 MILLION TO COMPENSATE FOR LOST CATCH POSSIBILITIES. THE EXISTING QUOTA OF 43,800 TONS IS ALMOST EXHAUSTED AND THE FISHERMEN CLAIM

THEY FACE SERIOUS FUNANCIAL STRAIN FOR THE RE-
MAINDER OF THE YEAR.

2. DURING THE DEMONSTRATION, THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE FISHERMEN MET WITH THE DANISH FISHERIES MINIS-
TER, SVEND JACOBSEN, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY ESTABLISHED A
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE
MEANSOF REDUCING THE DANISH FISHERY FLEET TO MATCH
FUTURE CATCH POSSIBILTIES. THE FISHERMEN ALSO MET
WITH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN, WHO HAS MADE
STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE FISHERMEN'S BLOCKADE ACTIONS.
JORGENSEN, HOWEVER, TOLD THE FISHERMEN THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBLE RELIEF MEASURES, PRO-
VIDED THAT THE FISHERMEN REFRAINED FROM FURTHER
BLOCKADES. JORGENSEN PROMISED TO HAVE A PROPOSAL
READY BY MAY 12 OR 13.

3. THE PRESENT SITUATION RESULTS FROM A REDUCTION
OF THE DANISH COD QUOTA IN THE BALTIC FROM 53,100 TONS
IN 1977 TO 43,800 TONS IN 1978. BESIDES THE 53,100
TONS IN 1977, DANES FURTHER CAUGHT AROUND 17,000
TONS IN DANISH SOUNDS AND STRAITS AD-
JACENT TO THE BALTIC SEA, AREAS WHICH WERE NOT
INCLUDED IN THE 1977 CONVENTION. IN 1978, THE EC
WAS GIVEN THE MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE BALTIC SEA QUOTAS.
BASED ON FISHERY BIOLOGISTS' FINDINGS, THE QUOTA WAS
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SET AT 43,800 TONS, ALSO INCLUDING CATCHES IN DANISH
SOUNDS AND STRAITS. HENCE, THE TOTAL REDUCTION FROM
1977 TO 1978 WAS AROUND 26,300 TONS. ALTHOUGH COD
PRICES IN THE SAME PERIOD HAVE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY,
THE EXTRA INCOME HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT
THE PRESENT SITUATION OF FINANCIAL STRAIN.

4. IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY THE FISHERMEN'S OR-
GANIZATIONS THAT DENMARK MUST LIVE WITH FISHERY QUOTAS
FOR AN IDENFINITE PERIOD OF TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND,
THE FISHERMEN SAY THEY CANNOT ACCEPT THE PRESENT
SITUATION UNLESS SOME RELIEF MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED.
PENDING THE ADOPTION OF THE EC FISHERIES POLICY, THE
FISHERMEN REQUEST THAT DENMARK APPLY THE SAME PRINCIPLES
OF RELIEF MEASURES AS THOSE AVAILABLE TO OTHER IN-
DUSTRIES AND TO AGRICULTURE.
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